

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 remain pending in the application. Claims 7-26 are cancelled herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kitahara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant amends claim 1 to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Accordingly, claim 1, as well as claim 2 which depends therefrom, should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 8 and 9 are cancelled.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395) in view of Minowa et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2001/0002134). Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395) in view of Junhua (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0085962). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395) in view of Takahashi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,527,354). Claims 11-20 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395) in view of

Nakamura et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,933,958). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,328,395) modified by Minowa et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2001/0002134) as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,364,450). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 which is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Accordingly, these claims should be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 10-26 are cancelled.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant amends claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Claim 7 is cancelled.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Oct 25, 2006

By: 

G. Gregory Schivley

Reg. No. 27,382

Bryant E. Wade

Reg. No. 40,344

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

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